

University Mennonite Church Congregational Meeting
September 7, 2025
Notetaker: Ruth Kitchin Tillman

Present in Sanctuary (29):

Joel Weidner (co-chair), Jim Rosenberger (treasurer), Ruth Kitchin Tillman (asst chair), Kate Heinzl (pastor), Molly Bletz, Doug McPherson, Hope Brubaker, Doug Miller (elder), Doug Yoder, Dave Beppler, Ken Litwiller (elder), Laura Litwiller, Becky Kephart, Kathleen Stehouwer, Rick Stehouwer, Dale Kephart, Jim Prowant, Nel Kopp, Gloria Horst Rosenberger (elder), Paul McCormick, Jess McCormick, Matt Rooke, Sue Miller, Karl Ahrendsen, Meredith Wideman, Jenn Bies, Rob Bies, Rodney Brubaker, Ben Wideman (zoom/operation)

Present on Zoom (6):

Leah Witzig (elder), Tim Groff (elder), Carmen Groff, Leah Lumeya, Fidele Lumeya, Leslie Webb

Opening - Joel

Marking a time of renewal and new beginnings mixed with the uncertainty of loss with Kate's departure. Our congregation has many transitions over the years – buildings, pastors. We celebrate that despite all those changes our church has always been a witness for peace and justice and loving our neighbors in this community

Approval of the Minutes - Joel

- Missing minutes from June 29
- Approving March, Joel moves, Ruth seconds, approval
- Approval April special meeting minutes for bathroom, Joel moves, Hope seconds, approval
- Approval August special meeting minutes for pastoral search kickoff, Joel moves, Jim R. approves, approval

Pastoral interim update - Joel

- Pastoral search committee will be kicking off with an in-person meeting in September 14
- No interim pastor. Ben Wideman will be stepping in with 2 sermons a month and worship coordination duties. Elders will be performing additional pastoral care.
- Worship committee will be soliciting guest speakers from inside and outside the congregation for sermons on the other Sundays. (Kathleen)

Kate reflections

- Deuteronomy 30, Moses's final words to the people. "Choose life. ... Be strong and of good courage"

Affirmation of congregational chairs - Joel Weidner

Rick Stehouwer joins Joel Weidner as co-chair with Ruth Kitchin Tillman as assistant chair. Jim Rosenberger moves to affirm, affirmation.

Other open positions:

- No adult ed leadership as yet
- No Park Forest Preschool representative currently

Treasurer's Report with Proposed Budget - Jim Rosenberger

- Reports attached. Current assets for church does not include solar panels and bathrooms
- Question about memorial garden fund: is there a reason we aren't using it? Nel would like to see it finished up!
- Question about valuation, is it accurate since it's based on original purchase price? Jim and Joel confirm this is a standard recommendation for non-profits. Might be worth more but also might be worth less since church buildings are not regularly needed.
- Net revenue is -19k, meeting house expenses were total of 276% of our budget, primarily our renovations budget. This will be added to the value of the building upon completion.
- Question about the annual audit, will happen this fall, Jim plans to ask someone else on the committee.
- Draft budget was approved in June meeting. Lines with changes are explained through notes, e.g. adding expenses for search committee to bring people in/moving expenses. Dropping pastor salary for portion of the year. Some hard costs increase/some predictions.
- Question: if outside worship speakers cost more, how should we get increase? Should be flexible.

Joel moves to accept the proposed budget, Laura L. seconds. Approval.

Committee reports

- Meetinghouse committee (Gloria): Bathroom renovations are going more slowly than we'd hoped but continuing. Mary Derstein will be taking on custodial duties for restrooms and taking on those hours, which Doug will be dropping.
 - New business: our sign is faded and other things become more important but we may take it on.
 - Bathrooms have been painted!

Other Business

- Leadership team will beginning meeting on the 24th

Closing - Joel